

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 146
By Winningham

A RESOLUTION memorializing the United States Congress to enact legislation to posthumously award First Lieutenant Garlin Murl Conner, United States Army, a much deserved Medal of Honor.

WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Garlin Murl Conner was a native of Clinton County, Kentucky, who served with distinction and valor in the United States Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky Congressman Ed Whitfield has introduced H. R. 605 in the 109th Congress to authorize the President to award a Medal of Honor posthumously to First Lieutenant Garlin Murl Conner; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Garlin Murl Conner is Kentucky's most decorated war hero, who served on the front lines for more than eight hundred days in eight major campaigns; he was wounded seven times, but returned to combat and continued to fight on the front lines after each incidence; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, more than forty 3rd Division soldiers received Medals of Honor, more than any other Division; however, Lieutenant Garlin Murl Conner was not awarded the Medal of Honor due to an oversight and a failure to process the paperwork; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Conner served in the 3rd Infantry Division with Audie L. Murphy, America's most decorated war hero; compared to Audie L. Murphy, Lieutenant Conner was awarded more Silver Stars for acts of valor, fought in more campaigns, served on the front lines for a longer period of time, and was wounded more times. Lieutenant Conner was awarded many honors, including the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart with six Oak Leaf Clusters, and other medals; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 1945, Lieutenant Conner was awarded the Croix de Guerre, the French Medal of Honor, which was also awarded to Sergeant Alvin C. York, America's most decorated World War I soldier. Lieutenant Conner and Sergeant York were friends who lived only a few miles apart on the Kentucky-Tennessee border; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Ambrose, America's foremost World War II historian, founder of the D-Day Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana, and author of many books, wrote on November 11, 2000, "I am in complete support of the effort to make Lieutenant Garlin M. Conner a Medal of Honor recipient. What he did in stopping the German assault near Houssen, France, in January, 1945, was far above the call of duty. I've met and talked at length with many Medal of Honor recipients and am sure they would all agree that Lieutenant Conner more than deserves the honor of joining them"; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2001, the 3rd Infantry Division leaders named the new EAGLE BASE in Bosnia-Herzegovina after Lieutenant Conner because of his gallantry in World War II and because "It's a company-grade forward operating base named after a soldier with a company-grade rank"; and

WHEREAS, Richard Chilton, a former Green Beret from Genoa City, Wisconsin, has been on a mission since 1996 to have the Medal of Honor awarded to Lieutenant Conner; his research has documented that Lieutenant Conner is one of the great combat heroes of World War II, equal in every way to Audie Murphy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chilton has made presentations to dozens of schools about Lieutenant Conner's war record and has copies of over 2,500 letters written by students to President George W. Bush requesting the Medal of Honor be awarded to Lieutenant Conner; after reviewing Mr. Chilton's information, a host of war veterans have written Congress requesting passage of legislation to award the Medal of Honor to one of America's greatest Citizen Soldiers, Lieutenant Garlin Murl Conner; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this Body urges the United States Congress to enact legislation authorizing

the President to posthumously award a Medal of Honor to First Lieutenant Garlin Murl Conner, United States Army.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that enrolled copies of this resolution be delivered to: Congressman Duncan Hunter, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee; the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States; the President and the Secretary of the Senate of the United States; each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation; and the widow of First Lieutenant Garlin Murl Conner, Mrs. Pauline W. Conner, Route 1, Box 208, Albany, Kentucky 42602.